(ग) क्या इस संबंध में कोई समिति गठित की गई है।

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके विचारार्थ विषय क्या-क्या हैं; और

(ङ) समिति की इस संबंध में क्या सिफारिशें हैं?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। केन्द्र सरकार ने खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 की धारा 26 की उपधारा (1) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का उपयोग करते हुए (दिनांक 30 जनवरी, 1997 की अधिसूचना सं॰ 69(ई) निदेश दिया है राज्य के एक क्षेत्र में अधिनियम की पहली अनुसूची के भाग-ग में निर्दिष्ट खनिजों के संबंध में अधिनियम की धारा 7 की उपधारा (2) और धारा 8 की उपधारा(2) के अन्तर्गत इसके द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली नवीकरण संबंधी शक्तियों का उस राज्य की सरकार द्वारा भी उपयोग किया जाएगा।

(ग) से (ङ) जी, हां। केन्द्र सरकार ने सचिव (खान) की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति गठित की है जो खनन नियमों और प्रक्रियाओं की समीक्षा करेगी। समिति के विचारार्थ विषयों में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ खनिजों के विनियमन और विकास को नियंत्रित करने वाले मौजूदा कानूनों और प्रक्रियाओं की समीक्षा करना और बदली हुई नीतियों के अनुकूल बनाने हेतु कदम सुझाना ताकि पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस/खनन पट्टे की मंजूरी/नवीकरण में होने वाली देरी को कम किया जा सके। समिति पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस/खनन पट्टा देने के बारे में शक्तियों के प्रत्यायोजन पर विचार करेगी और सुझाव भी देगी तथा अवैध खनन रोकने के लिए उपाय सुझायेगी। समिति की पहली बैठक 29 अप्रैल, 1997 को हुई है।

Illegal Mining of Granite

3099. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh, a Large scale illegal mining of Granite is going on;

(b) if so, the action being taken to stop that;

(c) whether Government are aware that the mine owners of granite in Lalitpur are violating the Supreme Court ruling; and

(d) if so, the action taken to honour the directives of Supreme Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Granite being a minor mineral, the grant of mineral concessions for the same is regulated by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the concerned state Government. The action to check illegal mining is also to be taken by the concerned State Government as per provisions of law.

Exploration of Copper

3100. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the work done by the Mining Exploration Corporation Ltd. in the area of Copper exploration;

(b) whether drilling work is still going on or has been completed;

(c) if the work is going on by when it will be completed; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase copper mining.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) has concentrated in Khetri Copper Belt in Rajasthan, Singhbhum Copper Belt in Bihar, Malanjkhand Copper Deposit in Madhya Pradesh and some small isolated occurrence in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, orissa etc. in the area of coppr exploration. the total exploration input for copper exploration by MECL is over 2.2 Lakh Metres of Drilling, 3900 Metres of exploratory Mining and about 25.0 Sq. Kms. of Geological mapping establishing over 500 Million Tonnes of Copper ore reserves in various blocks.

(b) At present, MECL is engaged in exploration for Copper in Kallar area in Raichur district of Karnataka and would be taking up detailed exploration in Surhari and Kalapahar blocks in Khetri Copper belt, Rajasthan shortly.

(c) Work is expected to be completed by June, 1997 in Kallur block and Surhari and Kalapahar blocks in middle of 1998.

(d) As a result of detailed exploration by

MECL, HCL (Hindustan Copper Ltd.) has opened Malanjkhand Mine. HCL is also developing a mine at Banwas in Khetri Copper belt which is a result of discovery made by MECL. Proving of continuity of ore bodies below 'O' MRL (Mean Reduced Level) in Madan Khundan Mine of Khetri Copper belt would enable HCL to increase the depth of a mine.

Inventory of Products in the Stocks of NALCO

3101. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aluminium Co. Ltd. has built up an alarming inventory of products in their stocks where crores of rupees are held up as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to lessen the inventory?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) had inventory of about 750 MT as on 31.3.1997 which is less than 2 days' production.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation Package for Workers of Bharat Gold Mines

3102. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 313 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1997 and state:

(a) the reasons for not taking any decision on tender quotations received for treatment of huge tailings in Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar;

(b) whether the evaluation report of these quotations was placed ever before BIFR;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that BIFR has given its final decision for closing Bharat Gold Mines;

(e) if so, the number of workers likely to lose job; and

(f) the details of rehabilitation package, if any, prepared for such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) floated global tenders in July, 1994 for exploration/exploitation of gold in the areas held under lease by BGML and for setting up of a project for recovery of gold through treatment of tailings. However, taking into account the financial benefits accruing to BGML, it was decided that it will be more beneficial for the Company to set up the project for extraction of gold from treatment of tailings on its own rather than through Joint Venture route.

(b) and (c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) appointed M/s. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) as the Operating Agency (OA) for BGML. The tenders were evaluated in consultation with ICICI. The result of evalutation was reported to BIFR.

(d) to (f) No, Sir, BIFR issued winding up notice vide its order dated 14.11.96 against which BGML appealed before Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). has quashed this order and remitted the matter to BIFR.

खनन कार्य को निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपा जाना

3103. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को देश में खानों में खनन कार्य को निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपने का निर्णय लिए जाने के बाद से निजी क्षेत्र की फर्मों से कई पेशकश प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक कुल कितनी पेशकश प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ग) उनमें से कितनी पेशकश स्वीकार हो गई है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन पेशकशों की स्वीकृति के लिए कोई सर्वमान्य पारदर्शी मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए है; यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) से (घ) खनन संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम 1957